

Collisions preventable, Navy says
Report cites ‘multiple failures’ by sailors aboard two destroyers. — National, 4A



Houston leaves no doubt
Astros score 5 runs in first 2 innings, cruise to championship. — Sports, 1C

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS’ NEWSPAPER

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Printed at Little Rock • November 2, 2017 ArkansasOnline.com 82 Pages • 11 Sections \$1.00

In the news

■ **Oska Gary Frankenstein** gave his parents, Kyle and Jessica Frankenstein, an extra treat on Halloween, making his entrance into the world four days late and after 14 hours of labor at a hospital in Winter Park, Fla.

■ **Michael Fallon**, 65, Britain’s defense minister, resigned after reports emerged about his repeatedly touching a female journalist’s knee in 2002, with Fallon saying his “previous conduct ... may have fallen below the high standards that we require of the Armed Forces.”

■ **Amber Schmunk**, 28, of Saukville, Wis., was charged with reckless endangering for having her 9-year-old son climb onto the roof of a minivan to hold down a plastic pool, telling officers that her father let her do similar things when she was young.

■ **Bonnie Kaite**, a school bus driver in Altoona, Pa., can proceed with a religious-discrimination lawsuit she filed after being fired by a bus company for refusing to be fingerprinted because she believed it would leave the “mark of the devil” on her, a federal judge ruled.

■ **Antonia Barrone**, 48, pleaded guilty to passing herself off as a lawyer to bilk hundreds of New York prison inmates out of more than \$20,000 and was sentenced to up to three years in prison and ordered to pay nearly \$270,000 in restitution and fines.

■ **Brandon Hurley**, 24, used flashing lights and a honking horn to pull over a Louisville, Ky, police officer driving in his personal vehicle and then asked if the officer knew how fast he was going, leading to charges against Hurley of impersonating a peace officer and wanton endangerment.

■ **Patrick Moran**, a major with the Massachusetts Environmental Police, said it is the first time he’s ever had to investigate a tuna being dumped in the woods, an occurrence that required a tow truck to haul off the 400-pound headless fish in New Gloucester.

■ **Charish Watson**, 41, a convenience store clerk in Hammond, La., faces a felony theft charge after investigators said she stole Louisiana Lottery tickets worth \$21,000 over the past four months and cashed in about \$3,000 in winnings.

■ **Sohail Habib Tajak**, a district police chief in Pakistan, said a 21-year-old woman who married against her will faces murder charges after she was accused of poisoning her new husband’s milk and inadvertently killing 17 other people who also drank the concoction.

WEATHER
LITTLE ROCK
Today Partly sunny and warmer.
High 80, winds southwest at 10 to 15 mph.
Tonight Slight chance of showers.
Low 65.



INDEX			
Arkansas	1B	Police beat	3B
Business	1D	Sports	1C
Classifieds	1F	Stocks	3D
Comics	6E	Style	1E
Crossword	6E	Television	2E
Deaths	4B	Voices	7B
Editorials	6B	Weather	4D

Home delivery
(501) 378-3456
Outside Pulaski County
1-800-482-1121



Health insurance enrollment window opens



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/BENJAMIN KRAIN

Cornelius Mabin and Rumel Driver, health insurance navigators, discuss provider information Wednesday at the Laman Library in North Little Rock while waiting to assist people in signing up for or renewing Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act coverage. The law’s fifth annual enrollment season began Wednesday, and navigators for the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace will set up at various locations throughout the 45-day sign-up period.

Article, 4A

Uzbek faces terror count

Manhattan rampage called long in works

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW YORK — Federal prosecutors on Wednesday filed charges accusing the suspect in the Manhattan truck attack of carrying out a long-planned plot, spurred by Islamic State propaganda videos, to kill people celebrating

Halloween. **TRUMP HITS** at suspect, visa program he blames for his presence in U.S. Page 6A.

They had been seeking in connection with the truck attack this week in Lower Manhattan.

The federal charges filed in civilian court, which detail how Sayfullo Saipov said he drew inspiration from Islamic State videos that questioned the killing of Muslims in Iraq, conflicted with urgings by President Donald Trump to try Saipov in military court



AP/SETH WENIG

Investigators walk near evidence markers early Wednesday on the Manhattan path where a pickup driver plowed through Tuesday on a deadly rampage.

UPDATE

Watch for more today at
arkansasonline.com

at the American prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The FBI had earlier re-

leased an alert saying they were seeking information about the second man, Mukhammadzoi Kadirov, 32, in connection with the attack. But it gave no indication why they were doing so or whether he was suspected

See **ATTACK**, Page 6A

State report on child deaths shows improvements, concerns

AMANDA CLAIRE CURCIO
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Fewer infants died in their sleep and more children are being adopted this year, but other figures — like the doubling of firearm fatalities — prove that efforts to improve child health in Arkansas must continue, officials told lawmakers Wednesday.

Medical conditions, injuries and unsafe sleep were the top causes of child fatalities in the past two years, according to an annual report released by the Child Death and Near Fatality Multidisciplinary Review Committee.

The legislatively created panel looked at fatal and near-death cases of children

younger than 18 that either were reported through the state’s Child Abuse Hotline or where there had been contact with the Children and Family Services Division in the previous two years — 86 cases in fiscal 2016 and 95 cases the following year.

The report said Arkansas lacked data and key informa-

tion in certain areas regarding child fatalities and near deaths, a concern also shared by members of the Legislature’s committees focused on children and youth during Wednesday’s meeting.

“How do we go to the prevention side?” Rep. Mickey Gates, R-Hot Springs, asked. “You don’t know what you

don’t know. A lot of kids can be saved if we could find trends.”

For instance, statutes do not require unexpected child death cases to go to the state medical examiner’s office; only line-of-duty deaths involving certain first-responders are mandated.

See **CHILDREN**, Page 2A

GOP jostling on deductions bogs tax plan

Leaders vow release today after missing own deadline

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — House Republicans on Wednesday scrambled to finalize the first major tax overhaul in three decades as opposition arose from GOP lawmakers fearful about constituents losing a cherished deduction for state and local taxes.

Top Republicans vowed to release the measure today after missing a self-imposed Wednesday deadline and dismissed rumors that the unveiling might be further delayed. The timetable calls for passing the measure in the House by Thanksgiving. “Failure is not an option,” said Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y.

The emerging plan would retain the income-tax rate for the highest earners. But for that highest bracket, the tax writers were considering

raising the minimum level of income to \$1 million from the current \$470,000 — a change that would reduce tax revenue.

The plan also would sharply cut tax rates for businesses in hopes of improving U.S. economic competitiveness. Tax rates for individuals would be trimmed as well.

President Donald Trump weighed in Wednesday on Twitter: “Wouldn’t it be great to Repeal the very unfair and unpopular Individual Mandate in ObamaCare and use those savings for further Tax Cuts for the Middle Class. The House and Senate should consider ASAP as the process of final approval moves along. Push Biggest Tax Cuts EVER.”

The individual mandate is a penalty some Americans must pay if they don’t

See **TAXES**, Page 3A

Westerman’s bill on U.S. forestland gets OK in House

Measure seen as giving flexibility to manage ‘unhealthy’ timberland

FRANK E. LOCKWOOD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday approved legislation that would make it harder for environmentalists to derail federal forest management plans.

The measure passed 232-188. Ten Democrats supported the measure; nine Republicans opposed it.

A member of the Arkansas delegation, 4th District U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman, sponsored HR2936, also

known as the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017.

The Hot Springs Republican, who holds a master’s degree in forestry from Yale University, said the U.S. Forest Service needs more flexibility as it battles to save millions of acres of trees and timberland.

Forests in “many areas across our country have been mismanaged for decades. The ones that have not already been destroyed are ripe to be devastated by

See **FORESTS**, Page 2A

Facebook ads show how Russia tried to stir up ’16

COMPILED BY
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF
FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — A batch of Facebook ads made public by Congress on Wednesday depicts Russia’s cyber intrusion into American life in 2016 aimed at upending the nation’s democratic debate and fomenting discord over such disparate issues as immigration, gun control and politics.

The ads, seen by vast numbers of people, encouraged street demonstrations against Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton and fostered support and opposition to Bernie Sanders, Muslims,

gays, blacks and the icons of the civil-rights movement.

The few dozen ads, a sampling of the roughly 3,000 Russia-connected ones that Facebook has identified and turned over to Congress, were released during two consecutive days of tough and sometimes caustic questioning by House and Senate lawmakers about why social media giants hadn’t done more to curb Russian interference on their sites.

The ads underscore how foreign agents sought to sow confusion, anger and discord among Americans through messages on hot-button top-

See **ADS**, Page 3A



AP/JACQUELYN MARTIN

Facebook general counsel Colin Stretch (from left), Twitter acting general counsel Sean Edgett and Kent Walker, Google senior vice president and general counsel, prepare to testify Wednesday on Capitol Hill.